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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF  
HAWAII AT MANOA TO CONVENE A MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS TASK  
FORCE AND REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO COMPLETE A MENTAL  
HEALTH WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT.

1 WHEREAS, there is a shortage of physicians in the State,  
2 with shortages being even more pronounced on the neighbor  
3 islands; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, there appears to be a pronounced shortage of  
6 primary care physicians, as well as physicians of all  
7 specialties on neighbor islands, including cardiologists,  
8 obstetricians and gynecologists, internists, psychiatrists,  
9 pediatricians, and neurologists, as well as physician extenders,  
10 such as advanced practice registered nurses with prescriptive  
11 authority and physician assistants, and allied mental health  
12 professionals, such as psychologists, social workers, marriage  
13 and family therapists, and other therapists, on the neighbor  
14 islands; and  
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16 WHEREAS, one proven solution to aid in addressing unmet  
17 medical needs on the neighbor islands is telemedicine and, with  
18 respect to psychiatric disease, telepsychiatry, which is  
19 currently finding increasing success in treating children with  
20 psychiatric disease on Hawaii and Maui, and which was supported  
21 by Act 159, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014; and  
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23 WHEREAS, there has been an increase in the number,  
24 complexity, and life-threatening side effects of medications  
25 used to treat brain disorders; and  
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27 WHEREAS, these side effects, including heart attacks and  
28 strokes, are of such concern that the United States Food and



1 Drug Administration ordered "black box warnings" on psychiatric  
2 medications; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, these medications, while effective, can have  
5 bothersome, hazardous, and potentially lethal side effects  
6 involving both the body and the brain; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, patients with severe psychiatric illnesses die  
9 twenty-five years younger than the rest of our community, not by  
10 suicide, but due to medical diseases, including diabetes, heart  
11 failure from high blood pressure, lung disease from cigarette  
12 smoking, stroke, and heart attacks, all of which can be made  
13 worse by medications prescribed to alleviate psychiatric  
14 disease; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, the training and practice of psychiatrists has  
17 therefore become increasingly focused on dealing with the bodily  
18 consequences of psychiatric disease and the medications used to  
19 treat them, including such consequences as smoking, diabetes,  
20 stroke, heart attacks, and kidney failure, which are  
21 increasingly common in patients afflicted with schizophrenia,  
22 bipolar I disorder, and severe depression; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, physician extenders, such as advanced practice  
25 registered nurses with prescriptive authority and physician  
26 assistants, by virtue of their biology, chemistry, physiology  
27 and medical-based training, are qualified to treat patients,  
28 under a physician's supervision, with medications for  
29 infections, high blood pressure, and diabetes, as well as the  
30 more moderate mood and anxiety disorders; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, many health and brain disorders can be treated by  
33 social workers, family therapists, the clergy, and  
34 psychologists, using psychotherapy, including techniques like  
35 cognitive-behavioral therapy, and faith-based therapies, as well  
36 as a spectrum of other therapies; and

37  
38 WHEREAS, there are numerous non-physician mental health  
39 care professionals trained to deliver psychological and  
40 spiritual therapies within the scope of their training and  
41 expertise, including doctoral level therapists, such as Ph.D.  
42 clinical, counseling, and school psychologists and Psy.D.



1 clinical psychologists, as well as Master's degree level  
2 therapists, such as Masters of Social Work, marriage and family  
3 therapists, and mental health counselors, as well as other  
4 mental health counselors, including pastors, rabbis, Buddhist  
5 monks and priests, Shinto priests, and Muslim and other  
6 spiritual healers, who, through their non-pharmacological  
7 expertise, significantly help to heal psychiatric distress; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, the training of all non-medically trained mental  
10 health care professionals, such as ministers and psychologists,  
11 have no overlap with the standard training required of medically  
12 trained health care professionals, such as advanced practice  
13 registered nurses with prescriptive authority and physician  
14 assistants; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, the standard training required of medically  
17 trained health care professionals includes medical school  
18 prerequisite-level coursework in chemistry, biology,  
19 mathematics, microbiology, and other topics; and  
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21 WHEREAS, it has been suggested by proponents of legislation  
22 proposing to confer prescriptive authority to clinical  
23 psychologists that, under certain conditions, clinical  
24 psychologists may be qualified to prescribe medications; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, this view is unjustified by the fact that  
27 psychologists are not required to complete the coursework in  
28 biology, chemistry, physiology, medicine, and the other sciences  
29 required of all other disciplines qualified to prescribe  
30 medication, including primary care physicians, psychiatrists,  
31 advanced practice registered nurses, advanced practice  
32 psychiatric nurses, and appropriately trained and supervised  
33 physician assistants; and  
34

35 WHEREAS, these competing views need to be carefully  
36 examined; and  
37

38 WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the health, safety, and  
39 well-being of the State to consider the appropriateness of  
40 conferring prescriptive authority to various health care  
41 professionals to treat mental illness in Hawaii; now, therefore,  
42



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
2 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
3 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
4 Psychiatry of the University of Hawaii at Manoa is requested to  
5 convene a Mental Health Access Task Force (Task Force) to  
6 develop recommendations:

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- 8 (1) For the establishment of standards for psychiatric and  
9 mental health care in the State, with particular  
10 attention to the neighbor islands and rural areas;  
11
- 12 (2) To increase access to psychiatrists; and  
13
- 14 (3) Regarding how telemedicine and physician extenders,  
15 and the use of allied mental health care  
16 professionals, such as spiritual leaders, social  
17 workers, marriage and family therapists, mental health  
18 counselors, and psychologists, might improve access to  
19 the appropriate level of treatment by the  
20 appropriately designated discipline, be it spiritual  
21 healing, psychotherapy, or medication; and  
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that  
24 the Task Force be assigned to the Department of Psychiatry of  
25 the University of Hawaii at Manoa for administrative purposes  
26 and make recommendations and propose legislation to improve  
27 access to mental health care; and  
28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that  
30 the Task Force be composed of:

- 31
- 32 (1) The Chairperson of the Department of Psychiatry of the  
33 University of Hawaii at Manoa, or the Chairperson's  
34 designee, who is requested to serve as the chairperson  
35 of the Task Force;  
36
- 37 (2) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;  
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- 39 (3) The Director of Human Services, or the Director's  
40 designee;  
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- (4) The Deputy Director of the Corrections Division of the Department of Public Safety, or the Deputy Director's designee;
- (5) A representative of the Insurance Commissioner who is familiar with issues of access to health care;
- (6) The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Health, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (7) The Chairperson of the House Committee on Health, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (8) The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (9) The Chairperson of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (10) The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (11) The Chairperson of the House Committee on Higher Education, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (12) The Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (13) The Chief Executive Officer of Hawaii Medical Services Association, or the Chief Executive Officer's designee;
- (14) The President of Kaiser Permanente (Hawaii), or the President's designee;
- (15) A psychopharmacology expert, as designated by the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Hawaii at Manoa;



- 1 (16) A psychology expert, as designated by the Department  
2 of Psychiatry of the University of Hawaii at Manoa;  
3
- 4 (17) A psychiatrist working in a community health center,  
5 as designated by the Hawaii Primary Care Association;  
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- 7 (18) A psychiatrist working in a community mental health  
8 center, as designated by the Department of Health;  
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- 10 (19) A psychiatric nurse practitioner, as designated by the  
11 School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene of the University  
12 of Hawaii at Manoa;  
13
- 14 (20) A Doctor of Pharmacy, as designated by the Daniel K.  
15 Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawaii  
16 at Hilo;  
17
- 18 (21) An expert in telepsychiatry, as designated by the  
19 Department of Psychiatry of Tripler Army Medical  
20 Center;  
21
- 22 (22) An expert in forensic psychiatry, as designated by the  
23 Hawaii Health Systems Corporation;  
24
- 25 (23) A psychiatric physician assistant, as designated by  
26 the Hawaii Medical Board;  
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- 28 (24) A naturopathic physician, as designated by the Board  
29 of Naturopathic Medicine;  
30
- 31 (25) A licensed marriage and family therapist, as  
32 designated by the Director of Commerce and Consumer  
33 Affairs;  
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- 35 (26) A licensed mental health counselor, as designated by  
36 the Department of Psychology of the University of  
37 Hawaii at Hilo;  
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- 39 (27) A psychiatry resident, as designated by the Department  
40 of Psychiatry of the University of Hawaii at Manoa;  
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1 (28) A doctoral candidate of the psychology Ph.D. degree  
2 program, as designated by the Department of Psychology  
3 of the University of Hawaii at Manoa;  
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5 (29) A patient with a diagnosis of schizophrenia for a  
6 minimum of five years who is currently receiving  
7 treatment, including antipsychotic medication, and  
8 residing on the island of Oahu, as designated by the  
9 Hawaii Health Systems Corporation;  
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11 (30) A patient with a diagnosis of bipolar disorder for a  
12 minimum of five years who is currently receiving  
13 treatment, including mood stabilizing medication, such  
14 as Lithium, Depakote, or both, and residing on the  
15 island of Oahu, as designated by the Hawaii Health  
16 Systems Corporation; and  
17

18 (31) A patient with a diagnosis of severe depression for a  
19 minimum of five years who is currently receiving  
20 treatment, including medication, and residing on the  
21 island of Oahu, as designated by the Hawaii Health  
22 Systems Corporation; and  
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the issues to be addressed by  
25 the Task Force include:  
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27 (1) An inventory of the mental health professional  
28 workforce available in the State;  
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30 (2) The distribution of that workforce, with particular  
31 attention to the neighbor islands and rural areas of  
32 Hawaii; and  
33

34 (3) The means by which access to mental health care by  
35 those professionals, including physicians, such as  
36 primary care physicians and psychiatrists, physician  
37 extenders, such as advanced practice nurse  
38 practitioners and physician assistants, allied mental  
39 health professionals, such as social workers, marriage  
40 and family therapists, mental health counselors,  
41 psychologists, and spiritual healers, may be improved;  
42 and



1  
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than September 1,  
3 2015, the Auditor is requested to complete and submit to the  
4 Task Force a mental health workforce assessment of mental health  
5 professionals and mental health facilities in Hawaii to identify  
6 shortages and determine how those shortages can be reduced; and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
9 include in the assessment, information on professionals who are  
10 qualified to prescribe medications used to treat mental illness,  
11 including psychotropic and anti-psychotic medications; and  
12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that  
14 the mental health workforce assessment include:  
15

16 (1) The estimated number and geographic dispersion of the  
17 following mental health professionals currently  
18 located and practicing in the State:  
19

20 (A) Psychiatrists;

21  
22 (B) Psychologists, Ph.D.;

23  
24 (C) Psychologists, Psy.D.;

25  
26 (D) Advanced practice psychiatric nurses;

27  
28 (E) Licensed clinical social workers;

29  
30 (F) Mental health counselors;

31  
32 (G) Marriage and family therapists;

33  
34 (H) Substance abuse counselors; and

35  
36 (I) Other licensed and unlicensed individuals who  
37 provide mental health care; and  
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39 (2) The estimated number of university students in the  
40 State who studied the mental health subjects of  
41 psychiatry, psychology, clinical mental health  
42 counseling, human services, social work, nursing, and





marriage and family therapy, and who graduated with one of the following degrees from an undergraduate or graduate program in Hawaii:

- (A) Bachelor's;
- (B) Master's;
- (C) Doctorate, M.D., D.O., and N.D.;
- (D) Doctorate, Ph.D.;
- (E) Doctorate, Psy.D.; and
- (F) Other degrees associated with mental health care; and

(3) The name and location of the following mental health facilities located in Hawaii:

- (A) Long-term care facilitation units, "closed";
- (B) Medium-term care facilitation units;
- (C) "Open" units;
- (D) Juvenile wards;
- (E) Out-patient clinics;
- (F) Halfway houses; and
- (G) Other facilities providing mental health care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, Director of  
3 Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Director of Health, Director of  
4 Human Services, Insurance Commissioner, Deputy Director of the  
5 Corrections Division of the Department of Public Safety,  
6 Chairperson of the Department of Psychiatry of the University of  
7 Hawaii at Manoa, Chairperson of the Department of Psychology of  
8 the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Chairperson of the Department  
9 of Psychology of the University of Hawaii at Hilo, Dean of the  
10 Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawaii  
11 at Hilo, Dean of the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene of the  
12 University of Hawaii at Manoa, Chairperson of the Senate  
13 Committee on Health, Chairperson of the House Committee on  
14 Health, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Commerce and  
15 Consumer Protection, Chairperson of the House Committee on  
16 Consumer Protection and Commerce, Chairperson of the Senate  
17 Committee on Higher Education and the Arts, Chairperson of the  
18 House Committee on Higher Education, Chairperson of the Board of  
19 Naturopathic Medicine, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of  
20 the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Chairperson of the Hawaii  
21 Medical Board, Chief Executive Officer of Hawaii Medical  
22 Services Association, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of  
23 the Hawaii Primary Care Association, President of Kaiser  
24 Permanente (Hawaii), and Chief of Psychiatry at Tripler Army  
25 Medical Center.

OFFERED BY:



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